

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 113934  
ORIGIN SS-15

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-----181640Z 064139 /43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 113934

FOR AMB YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 113934 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY MAY 18.

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 113934 TOSEC 040316

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: IS

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF ARAB-ISRAELI DEVELOPMENT NO. 139

SUPPLEMENT--ISRAELI ELECTIONS, 0800 GENEVA TIME

FROM DUBS AND SAUNDERS

1. LATEST RETURNS CONFIRM EARLIER TRENDS GIVING LIKUD  
ABOUT AN EIGHT SEAT PLURALITY OVER LABOR. WITH MORE  
THAN A THIRD OF THE PRECINCTS REPORTING, THE RESULTS  
WERE:

LIKUD 41

LABOR 32

DMC 14

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NRP 12

RAKAH 6

TEL AVIV TELEVISION SAID THE IDF VOTE HAS YET TO BE  
COUNTED AND COULD FURTHER EXTEND LIKUD'S LEAD. IT IS  
POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT AS MORE URBAN VOTES ARE COUNTED  
LABOR COULD CLOSE THE MARGIN SOMEWHAT.

2. BEGIN, IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, CLAIMED VICTORY FOR THE LIKUD, TELLING REPORTERS THAT "IT APPEARS THAT LIKUD WILL BE CALLED UPON TO FORM ISRAEL'S NEXT GOVERNMENT." HE BEGAN IMMEDIATELY CONSULTING WITH POTENTIAL COALITION PARTNERS. SPEAKING TO HIS SUPPORTERS AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS, BEGIN SAID THAT:

--HE WOULD FIRST ATTEMPT TO FORM A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. ONLY IF HE FAILED IN THIS WOULD HE MOVE TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

--HIS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, SHOULD HE SUCCESSFULLY FORM A GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE TO APPEAL TO SADAT, ASSAD, AND KING HUSSEIN FOR PEACE TALKS ;EITHER IN OUR RESPECTIVE CAPTIALS OR IN A NEUTRAL PLACE IN GENEVA."

3. BEGIN'S PREFERENCE FOR A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO REFLECT A REALIZATION ON HIS PART THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE POLITICALLY UNITED IN THE FACE OF ISRAEL'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. MORE PRAGMATICALLY, HOWEVER, BEGIN MAY POSSIBLY PERCEIVE SUCH A GOVERNMENT AS HIS BEST CHANCE OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT. IT IS LIKELY-- GIVEN THE ELECTION INDICATIONS THUS FAR--THAT HE WOULD NEED BOTH THE NRP AND THE DMC FOR A SIMPLE COALITION, A DIFFICULT PROSPECT SINCE THESE PARTIES HAVE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES OVER KEY ISSUES SUCH AS ELECTORAL REFORM AND TERRITORIAL RETROCESSIONS ON THE WEST BANK.

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4. THE MODERATION OF BEGIN'S CALL FOR A MEETING WITH ARAB HEADS OF STATE IS MORE APPARENT THAN REAL. SUCH A CALL APPEARS TO SUGGEST, BY EXCLUDING ANY REFERENCE TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE TERMINATION OF SUPER POWER MEDIATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPOSED SETTLEMENT. THE IDEA OF DIRECT TALKS WITH ARABS HAS HAD MUCH POPULAR SUPPORT FOR SOME TIME. SUCH TALKS WOULD GIVE THE ISRAELIS DE FACTO ARAB RECOGNITION WHICH SO FAR HAS ELUDED THEM. MOREOVER, THIS APPROACH WOULD AVOID THE UNPLEASANT PROBLEM OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIANS.

5. BEGIN, BORN IN 1913 IN POLAND, HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM WARSAW UNIVERSITY. AFTER ARRIVING IN PALESTINE IN 1942, BEGIN BECAME A NATIONAL FIGURE DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE. HE WAS THE LEADER OF THE IRGUN AND A GUERRILLA FIGHTER WHO DIRECTED ANTI-BRITISH AND ANTI-ARAB OPERATIONS INCLUDING THE BLOWING-UP OF THE KING DAVID HOTEL. WITH THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF

ISRAEL AND THE DISBANDING OF THE IRGUN, HE FOUNDED THE  
NATIONALIST HERUT PARTY AND WAS ELECTED TO THE KNESSET

IN 1949. IN SEPTEMBER 1973 HERUT AND TWO OTHER RIGHTIST  
PARTIES JOINED TO FORM THE LIKUD BLOC. TIME APPEARS TO  
HAVE BROUGHT A MELLOWING TO BEGIN'S ULTRA-MILITANT LINE  
AND MADE HIM MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAELI VOTERS. CHRISTOPHER  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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